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THE NEW ORDER IN EUROPE.

by

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(*With acknowledgments to* "*The Nineteenth Century.*")

Mein Kampf is a revealing document, and in one of its most significant chapters Hitler admits that his party sprang from Austria and not from Germany. The foundations of the National-Socialist party were laid in the Hapsburg Empire, in Czechoslovakia—if I may make an unpleasant admission; or, rather, in the districts bordering upon Bohemia and Germany. In Bohemia, where the Hapsburg Germans were geographically nearest to Prussia, some of the greatest German chauvinists used to flourish. They hated the Czechs because, next to the Germans, they were the most highly developed people in the Hapsburg Empire, and because they were nationally the most conscious as well as politically the best educated.

Vienna and the Hapsburg Government always looked to the Germans of Bohemia when they wanted to score over the Czechs. The Germans of Behemia proclaimed Pan-Germanism, and Berlin helped them to prevent any understanding between Vienna and the Czechs. They let the dynasty know that they would sooner destroy the Hapsburg Empire, and link themselves with Berlin, than watch the development of any

federation in which the Czechs, the Yugoslavs and the Poles would have the political privilege of the Germans, together with the important advantage of gaining between them an actual majority over the Germans.

One of the most aggressive groups of Bohemian Germans in the 'nineties called itself All-deutsch (Pan-German) and accepted the leadership of George Schoenerer, a deputy of the Vienna Parliament, a drunken and incompetent anti-Semite, who hated the Czechs. Only two or three deputies supported him, but his demagogic powers won him a certain notoriety. He was one of the first Pan-Germans of the Hapsburg Empire; and in *Mein Kampf* Hitler, himself an Austrian, expressly admits Schoenerer as one of his predecessors and originators of his doctrines. From Vienna, where he spent his youth, Hitler organised his Pan-Germanism, his German chauvinism and the anti-Semitism, which raged in the Austrian capital from 1890 to the outbreak of the last war. He came to know Schoenerer and his friends. Yet he hated Austria, because he believed that the Hapsburg Empire had failed to fulfil its mission, which was—in his opinion—ruthlessly to Germanise the Czechs, the Yugoslavs, the Poles and all other subjects of the old monarchy.

In *Mein Kampf* Hitler worked out the entire Pan-German plan which he is now executing. He showed why he believed it to be imperative for Germany to dominate Central Europe and the Balkans, and to deliver a fatal blow at France. He revealed the methods—lies, treachery, murder, war—by which the Germans were to dominate Europe. He urged the use of every kind of 'Nordic subtlety', and he showed how it was necessary to execute plans and aggressive attacks step by step, to eliminate one opponent after another, to undermine progressively every alliance, and to destroy bit by bit the Peace of Versailles. Violence, he argued, was essential in politics. Lies should be gross and consistent, since people believe impudent lies more readily than they believe small or timid lies. In politics everything can be promised. But Germany's word is to be kept, and Germany's obligations fulfilled, only when they serve the interest of the German nation and the German Government.

Because I knew all this when I read *Mein Kampf* in 1924, I have never believed Hitler. Later, I watched his party grow from 11 to 108 deputies. I saw his party acquire a direct ascendancy over German

opinion, and ten years ago I knew that eventually Hitler would come to power, and that his nomination as Chancellor would herald within Germany a criminal and destructive revolution. There were, indeed, many genuine democrats in Germany, but the masses lacked the political experience and judgment to repudiate and overcome this chauvinist Pan-German demagogue.

And because democracy cannot come to terms with treachery and violence, and because I never believed in him or his work, I resolutely refused to meet Hitler. I signed no treaty with Nazi Germany. From 1935 I prepared my country for war between Germany and her neighbours, and Czechoslovakia was ready for war by the time she reached the crisis of September, 1939. Czechoslovakia was ready for war, and the rest of Europe was not. Hence the notorious Munich Agreement. Hence the German occupation of Czechoslovakia. Hence the invasion of Poland and the Second European War.

Hitler's political ideas have first of all a negative foundation: he was determined to undo the defeat of 1918, and to destroy the Peace of Versailles, by raising the standard of Pan-Germanism, and by embarking upon a new war. This he would do, not with the aid of the dynastic, aristocratic and bureaucratic classes, as in 1914, but with the aid of the lowest social classes; the whole German people would be concerned with their country's rule over Europe. Because their standards are higher than others, the German people were to dominate Central and Eastern Europe. The Bismarckian Pan-Germanism of philosophers, politicians, autocrats, junkers and generals was to give place to the Pan-Germanism of the people.

The new Pan-Germanism was clearly more dangerous than the old. Socially, Hitler is opposed to the bourgeoisie and the upper classes, not from a sense of justice, but from the conviction that chauvinist German masses can alone achieve his Pan-German plans. His Pan-Germanism gathers strength because it has millions of adherents. But Hitler is also anti-democratic, because he does not want democracy, freedom and tolerance to make the German people less aggressive in their task of dominating Europe. Vienna taught him to be anti-Semitic. He saw that the Jewish intellectual could be liberal, critical and defensive. But fundamentally Hitler was anti-Semitic because he knew that the Jews among the bourgeoisie and the industrial and capitalist bodies would powerfully contribute to the frustration of his Pan-German aims. His

internal, social and economic measures have been shaped for him by collaborators like Dr. Schacht, and others who joined him while his movement was gathering strength.

What then is Hitler's 'New Order' for Europe? Germany is to dominate the greater part of Europe. Other nations are to work for and obey, the *Herrenvolk*, their German overlords. Subject nations will be graded according to their usefulness to Germany. Respect will be shown to France when she has submitted and surrendered her colonies, the more so since the Nazis believe that as a nation and a race the French are degenerate, and will have no significance for a future Europe. Italy, who will obtain the second place in the Nazi Empire, will be rewarded for her fidelity with new territory; and so will Hungary, who is to occupy the first place among the smaller European States. Russia, deprived of the Ukraine, will be driven eastwards, so that she becomes a purely Asiatic power. The countries which dared to oppose the 'New Order'—Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia—will remain broken and subjugated.

Germany as a fully developed industrial State will possess new colonies and dominate several seas. Other States will remain agricultural. Their spiritual freedom will be restricted, for it is their function only to acquire the industrial products of Germany, and passively to complete her economic structure. Their economic, ideological and cultural dependence upon Germany is to be absolute. If any industry is to exist in their territories it must be directed by, and allied to, German undertakings.

Wherever Germany acquires her new colonies—in the Ukraine, the Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle East, or even the Far East—she intends to obtain an appropriate share of the world's supplies of raw materials; above all, petrol. Japan she will allow to become the decisive factor in Eastern Asia. A submissive Great Britain will be allowed to keep the greater part of a disrupted Empire, but if she resists, Great Britain will be isolated, and her Empire will be destroyed.

Within Germany and her satellite States the 'New Order' denies democratic freedom, freedom of the Press and speech or the expression of belief, of free religious associations or scientific research. The Fascist party and the State are one. In the leaders of the Fascist party is vested the sole authority of the State. The party leaders are infallible, and decree what others must think and do. Opponents must be destroyed

or made harmless. It follows that all culture, all literature, art and science which oppose the tenets of the Fascist leaders must in turn be destroyed or made harmless, and among the dead things of more liberal centuries, must go the national ideas of the French Revolution, the British development of the idea of citizenship, and the principles of the American Revolution.

With the destruction of political freedom go fundamental changes in the economic structure of society. Economic individualism is brought to an end. State intervention is widespread. Individual profits are restricted, and made available in the first place to those among the masses who are actively supporting the Fascist order. Plutocrats—above all, Jewish plutocrats—give place to new ruling classes. The State and the people are one; and they are all. The State is deified. The State is God, against Whom there are no individual rights and privileges. The leaders of the Fascist party decree what are the needs of the State. Those needs must be met, in whatever sphere, without protest. And because this State-God requires a powerful inner structure it must remain, even after a victorious war, the State of the Gestapo, the State of a militarily constituted S.S., Europe's greatest military power, both on land and in the air. The cultural and scientific legacies of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, air communications and the radio, are at the disposal of a new State absolutism, far more ruthless and terrible than the old absolutism of monarchy, caste or feudal society.

The new State absolutism, moreover, commands an effective and Machiavellian propaganda. The Fascist leaders begin a war, and lay the blame first upon England and then upon the United States. They destroy small nations, and apportion the blame to England, who they say let them into war. They destroy minorities, and blame the small people whom fate and historical development have placed within the sphere of the German *Lebensraum*. They violate the neutrality of countries, and claim that they have done it only to forestall the British. Corruption, which is rampant in their own State, they attribute to democracy. They steal and pillage and disintegrate the economic life of the occupied States, and claim that the disintegration is due to the British blockade. Is it surprising that President Roosevelt recently denounced the 'New Order' because 'it is not an order and it is not new'?

Where one nation dominates or exploits another, there cannot be order; only a preparation for new conflicts, new wars, new revolts

and an accumulation of hatreds; 'dragon's teeth' sown across the body politic of Europe. Where there are no sure foundations of justice or truth, objectivity or tolerance, there cannot be order; only a social, economic and moral chaos, which is to end in a sudden and enormous catastrophe. The Nazi 'Order' is, therefore, negative, nihilist, violent, destructive. Such 'Orders,' warning posterity by the catastrophic manner in which they ended, have been known before—at the fall of the Roman and Byzantine Empire; during the migrations when the ancient times gave place to the Middle Ages; during the European decline which followed the Thirty Years' War. The Nazi 'Order' is by no means new.

But what are the prospects of a real 'New Order' in Europe?

Between Nazism and Democracy no compromise is possible. Compromise could only give us a short breathing-space. It could not give us peace. The Fascist 'Order' and its leaders must disappear, once and for all. Democracy must win both on the field of battle and in the hearts of men. There must be profound political and social changes in Germany, even if the process of change involves a long period of political education. There must emerge a federal Germany, harmoniously related to a better organised Central and Western Europe.

All occupied countries, including Austria, will be liberated. Smaller States will be united in larger units, which are either federal or confederate, like the union now discussed between Czechoslovakia and Poland. There should be federal or confederate units in the Balkans, in Northen Europe and among the smaller States of Western Europe. Their creation will provide easier and better economic conditions for the peoples who live within them. They will help to establish a real collective security and a common economic collaboration.

The problem of national minorities will have to be considered far more systematically and radically than it was after the last war. I accept the principle of the transfer of populations. Populations were exchanged, successfully and on a large scale, between Greece and Turkey after the war of 1922. The world courageously accepted this large-scale transfer, because it knew that the alternative would have been a systematic mass-murder of millions of people. If the problem is carefully considered, and wise measures are adopted in good time, the transfer can be made amicably under decent human conditions, under international control and with international support.

I do not believe that it will be possible to create a Federal Europe immediately after the war. From the chaos of faithlessness and hate, order, trust and sympathy—conditions demanded by every type of federation—cannot readily emerge. But the development of small federations may lead eventually, and after a number of decades, to the realisation of a Federal Europe. The prelude to a Federal Europe must be the establishment of a really moral and legal equality between nations, of more adaptable and equalitarian economic structure within the individual States or federal units, of a firmer system of collective security, and a sense that a new post-war order in Europe guarantees for us at least half a century of peace. Meanwhile a new League must function as the guardian of European democracy and of peace. The League will foster the creation of regional and federal leagues, and may well become the instrument through which Federal Europe is ultimately achieved.

Democracy is at war with the totalitarianism of the Nazis and the Fascists. But for the past twenty years it has been in conflict also with the totalitarianism of the Communists. Democracy, if it is to escape the totalitarian danger of the Left, as well as the Nazi and Fascist poison of the Right, must deal resolutely with its own social and economic problems. The destruction of Fascism and Nazism, so essential for the salvation and survival of Democracy, will create such grave disturbances that Democracy, if it wishes to prevent social upheavals and Communistic revolutions from below, must have the courage to initiate and complete vitally important changes in social and economic structure. By this means alone real statesmanship, as in the past, will avoid social dangers and upheavals. To use a well considered slogan, political democracy must be completed by economic and social democracy.

But these changes, though they dig deep into the present structure of certain States, will be democratic, and not totalitarian. In the economic and social realm, the guiding principle must be also the needs of the necessary degree of individual freedom. A new post-war economic order cannot, of course, return to the relatively pure freedom of classical Liberalism; but economic and social democracy does not exclude—indeed, it demands—a fundamental degree of human freedom and dignity, both spiritual and material. To the individual must belong the inalienable right to be unmolested and undisturbed in the exercise of his human privileges.

A new world organisation will confront us with new colonial problems, with new problems of international trade and the distribution of raw materials. I believe that there will be a greater State regulation of international trade; for it seems to me that State, or Government, control is better for international trade than control by powerful individuals, capitalistic combines or international trusts. But on the other side, Government control will in actual fact accomplish a freer international trade, for the new post-war international order must make the sources and commodities of international trade more accessible to the nations of the world. There will be a fairer and less hampered distribution.

Our first duty, however, is to win the war. Better a long war than submission to the Nazis, or even an inconclusive peace which would lead in the end to a war more terrible than the one in which we are now engaged.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

12—12—41 to 18—12—41.

Russia.—Welcome news of a most heartening character is coming steadily from the Russian front. From the frozen north to the Sea of Azov the Nazi hordes, bent, twisted and damaged, are fleeing in retreat under the inexorable pressure of the Soviet forces. The siege of Moscow has ended in a fiasco; Von Bock, the German commander at this front has been dismissed and sent home in disgrace, and there is a report, though unconfirmed, of the possible return of the Soviet Government to its old capital. In the approaches to Moscow where the enemy had once advanced to a point within 20 miles, he has now been expelled from one place after another; from ELETZ, STALINOGORSK, KLIN, TULA and KALININ, to mention a few among them. In his mad flight, the enemy is burning villages and mining roads in a fruitless endeavour to stem the Russian advance. Ashamed to own a defeat, he pretends to be withdrawing to a 'winter-front' for 'stationary warfare'; but it is not likely that he will be allowed to roost in RUSSIA for the winter.

Libya.—The encirclement of the Axis forces in LIBYA is proceeding satisfactorily. The TOBRUK Perimeter has been cleared. Mopping up operations are in progress round SOLLUM. BIR HAKIM, ACROMA,

GHIRBA and GAZALA have been taken. Derna has been reached. Driven from pillar to post, the westward-fleeing enemy has been engaged between TIMIMI and TRIGH EL ABD. The fighting is now concentrated at 3 places—at GAZALA, at a point 30 miles west of GAZALA and at ALENO HAMZA. At the last mentioned place the Imperial forces have made a definite advance in spite of blinding sand-storms.

Meanwhile, the destruction of the Axis shipping carrying supplies and reinforcements to the Libyan front is mounting steadily. During the week, a supply ship, a schooner, a caïque, a liner (12,000 tons), a cruiser, an E. boat, a torpedo boat, and a submarine were sunk. These heavy losses are a measure both of the dire need of the enemy to replenish his depleted Libyan front and of the futility of his endeavour to carry aid across the Mediterranean. The risk is said to be about 50 per cent. For every division he may land in safety on the Libyan coast he must be prepared to lose one on the sea.

FAR EAST.

Plan of attack.—The Japanese attack extending over a wide area covering 6,500 miles is co-ordinated. The points of attack have been carefully chosen: PEARL HARBOUR to damage the U. S. fleet; GUAM and MANILA to capture the U. S. rear and forward bases; HONGKONG, to prevent help from that British stronghold, and MALAYA to open up SINGAPORE.

Pearl Harbour.—Full details of the attack on PEARL HARBOUR show that the U. S. loss in the surprise attack amounted to an old battleship and 5 other warships, while the Japanese lost 3 submarines and 41 aircraft.

Guam has been occupied by the enemy. The situation in the PHILIPPINES is described to be well in hand, though some Japanese have landed in LUZON. The Japanese are also reported to have landed at MIRI and LUBONG (Br. BORNEO).

The main attack is directed on HONGKONG and MALAYA.

Kowloon opposite to the island of HONGKONG, and situated on the Chinese mainland has been evacuated under enemy pressure. HONGKONG into which the British forces have withdrawn is in a state of siege. In reply to a demand for surrender, the Governor of the colony spiritedly notified the enemy that he not only rejected the

suggestion but he was also not prepared to receive any further communication on the subject. Chinese forces operating along the CANTON-HANKOW railway are attacking the Japanese at KOWLOON both in the flank and the rear.

In MALAYA, the Japanese have made full use of the initial advantage which their surprise attack has given them The loss of the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* opened up the Gulf of SIAM, and enabled the landing of considerable forces at KOTABHARU. Aided by Siamese treachery, which gave them a free passage through THAILAND, the forces have cut through MALAYA at the Isthmus of KRA, and seized VICTORIA POINT on the Burmese boundary. Heavy fighting is reported at KEDAH, and should the enemy succeed here PENANG is threatened.

Portuguese Timor.—Australian and Dutch forces have occupied Portuguese Timor forestalling the JAPS.

Canards and Blatant Lies.—Japanese reports of a raiding attack on RANGOON and of a landing in the ANDAMANS are BARE-FACED LIES. On the other hand, we have the assurance of the Governor of BURMA himself that BURMA is preparing to take the offensive against the enemy, which means that the Japanese forces in MALAYA will soon be cut off from their rear. General Wavell, than whom there is no higher authority on the matter, has said that honestly speaking there is no cause for any alarm. In the face of such assurance it is the height of stupidity to be scared, and disloyal to infect others with dastardly rumours.

Japanese Perfidy.—In a message to Congress, reviewing his recent conversations with JAPAN, President Roosevelt pointed out how in his eagerness to avoid a conflagration in the Pacific he was prepared to travel thousands of miles to meet the Japanese Premier, provided there was an agreement on the basic principles of Justice and Freedom. But while he was insisting on these principles, JAPAN emphasised the superiority of her seventy million people compared with the seven hundred million other orientals in ASIA, and asked for the unfreezing of her credits. Again, while he was demanding an explanation for the surreptitious landing of unauthorised forces in INDO-CHINA, the dastardly attack on PEARL Harbour had begun.

The Two Freedoms.—In a broadcast on December 15, on the occasion of the anniversary of the U. S. Bill of Rights, President

Roosevelt took an early occasion to define what those principles were on which he had insisted. They were two: the Freedom of Man and the Freedom of Mind, which the axis tigers were out to destroy. He said to Hitler and his confederates, "*the ideal of free self-government and responsible people—is incomprehensible. People to Hitler 'are masses', and the highest human idealism is, in his own words, that man should wish to become a 'dust particle' of the order 'of force' which is to shape the universe.*

"To Hitler, government as we conceive it is an impossible conception. Government to him is not the servant and instrument of the people, but their absolute master, and dictator of their every act.

"To Hitler, the Church as we conceive it is a monstrosity to be destroyed by every means at his command. The Nazi Church is to be a national church absolutely and exclusively in the service of but one doctrine, the race and nation".

"To Hitler, the freedom of men to think as they please, speak as they please, and worship as they please, is of all things imaginable the most hateful and most desperately to be feared.

"The issue of our time, the issue of the war in which we are engaged, is the issue forced upon the decent self-respecting peoples of the earth by the aggressive dogmas of this attempted revival of barbarism; this proposed return to tyranny this effort to impose again upon the peoples of the world the doctrines of absolute obedience, and of dictatorial rule, and of the suppression of truth and of the oppression of conscience, which the free nations of the earth long ago rejected."

St. Denis—The steamer *St. Denis* carrying the French Flag and carrying food to FRANCE was torpedoed on December 9 near the BALEARIC Isles, and FRANCE unwarrantedly presumes that the attack was made by a British submarine, while as a matter of fact on that date and in that area there was no British submarine at all. On the other hand German U. boats are known to have been prowling in these waters recently, attacking Norwegian, British and Spanish vessels indiscriminately. Evidently the *St. Denis* must have fallen a prey to one of these German monsters, and the action looks like a diabolical device to create trouble between BRITAIN and FRANCE, and with SPAIN.

Note.—According to the latest Radio announcement Vichy has now withdrawn her charge against BRITAIN.

Alliances.—Military alliances have been signed between ITALY, GERMANY, and JAPAN; between JAPAN and French INDO-CHINA, and between JAPAN and THAILAND.

Declarations of War.—The present week has proved a week of declarations of war; of GERMANY and ITALY on U. S.; of U. S. on GERMANY and ITALY; of RUMANIA on U. S.; of SAN SALVADOR on GERMANY and ITALY; of POLAND, the Dominican Republic, and IRAQ on JAPAN. EGYPT has severed diplomatic relations with HUNGARY and RUMANIA. VICHY and TURKEY maintain their neutrality towards JAPAN.

No More Strikes.—Following on the outbreak of war in the Pacific, all ranks of labour and industry in U. S. have set aside their differences, and promised unstinted co-operation in the task of defeating the enemy. Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour, Mr. Philip Murray, President of the Congress Industrial Organisations, and Mr. John Lewis, Vice-President of the Congress of Industrial Organisations have promised their full support.

Reprisals Again.—A hundred Jews, 'Communists' and 'Anarchists' are to be shot, and a fine of a thousand million francs is to be collected from Jews in occupied FRANCE, following on attempts against the German troops of occupation. Vichy—even Vichy has felt compelled to enter a protest against this 'massive repression' as she calls it. Even a worm turns when crushed.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
8—12—41. (Monday.)				
	(By British planes.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE. Aerodromes and factories in occupied FRANCE.		10 planes.	5 planes.
NIGHT :—				
	No information available.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
8—12—41.	**(Monday)**—*cont.*			
	LIBYA.			
	Motor transport and other objectives in the EL ADEM and ACROMA regions.	Many vehicles destroyed and set on fire.		
	A landing ground and aircraft on the aerodrome at DERNA.			8 planes.
	Supply dumps at BARDIA.			
	Traffic moving along the BARCE-DERNA, JEDABAYA-EL AGHEILA and MARDUA-FAIDIA roads.	Many lorries and vehicles destroyed.		
	Air combats over the battle zone.			2 planes.
	(By Russian planes.)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole battle area.		3 planes.	6 planes.
9—12—41.	**(Tuesday)**			
	(By British planes.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	A large enemy supply ship off the DUTCH coast.	Directly hit and set on fire.		
	Another ship off the NORWEGIAN coast.			
	Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE.			
	A factory in Northern FRANCE.		1 plane. (for all DAY operations above)	
NIGHT:—	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Aerodrome and aircraft on the aerodrome at DERNA.			2 planes.
	Aircraft on the ground at EL TMIMI.	Many planes damaged.		
	Air combats over LIBYA.			5 planes.
	Landing ground at EL AGHEILA.			
	Traffic on the EL AGHEILA—JADABAYA road.		11 planes. (for all LIBYA operations above)	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
9—12—41. (Tuesday)—*cont.*				
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air cambats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.			
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Enemy supply and troop ships off the Coast of THAILAND.			
10—12—41. (Wednesday.)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Wharves, the dock railway and shipping in BENGHAZI harbour.			
	Armoured vehicles and mechanised troops in LIBYA.			
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		2 planes.	10 planes.
	(By American and British planes)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Japanese troops and positions along the THAILAND border.			
11—12—41. (Thursday)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	A dock near EMDEN ...			
	An aerodrome in HOLLAND ...			
	A tanker at the mouth of river EMS.			
	A railway junction at WILHELMSHAVEN.			
	Two aerodromes in HOLLAND ...			
	A supply ship off the NORWEGIAN coast.		No loss.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
11—12—41. (Thursday)—*cont.*				
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy transport and motor vehicles in the battle zone.			
	Air combats over LIBYA ...	Many more planes damaged.		7 planes.
	Enemy transport on CHEMMINES-EL AGHEILA road.	Heavily damaged.		
	Road communications between TMIMI and CYRENE.			
	The aerodrome at MARTUBA ...			1 plane.
	SICILY.			
	Shipping in CATANIA harbour ...	Two ships hit.		
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Front.	...	...	11 planes.
	(By American and British planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	Island of Lord North.			
	Aircraft on the ground at TOBI ...			
	PACIFIC.			
	A Japanese schooner "NAYAMARU" in the PACIFIC.	Sunk.	1 plane.	
	An Island north of NEW GUINEA ...			
12—12—41. (Friday)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	DAY:—			
	An oil refinery at EMMERICH ...			
	A factory near BREMEN ...		1 fighter.	
	Objectives in the CALAIS and NIEUPORT areas.			
	NIGHT:—			
	The docks at BREST and DUNKIRK.			
	Oil refineries near ST. NAZAIRE ...	Fires started.		
	A large supply ship off TEXEL Island.		1 plane.	
	Enemy aerodromes in FRANCE and HOLLAND.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
12—12—41. (**Friday**,—*cont.*				
	CRETE.			
	The aerodrome at MALEME ...	A petrol dump set on fire.		
	GREECE.			
	Objectives at PATRAS in the Gulf of CORINTH.			
	The aerodrome at ARAXOS ...			
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy motor transport and troops on roads and tracks west of GAZALA and BIR HAKIM and on roads north and west of TMIMI	Vehicles damaged; casualties to troops.		
	Enemy lorries on the JADABAYA—EL AGHEILA road.			
	Aerodrome at CASTEL BENITO.			
	Landing ground at DERNA.			
	Concentrations of enemy motor transport in the DERNA area.			
	Air combats over LIBYA			4 planes.
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	Enemy Naval units in the MEDITERRANEAN			
	(**By Russian planes**) **EASTERN FRONT.**			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along whole Front.		2 planes.	7 planes.
	(**By American and British planes.**) **FAR EAST.**			
	Jap troops in all theatres of war.			
13—12—41. (**Saturday**).				
	(**By British planes**). **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.**			
DAY :—				
	A factory, a goods train and a gun post in Northern FRANCE.		No loss.	
	Oil refineries near ST. NAZAIRE.			
NIGHT :—				
	No information available.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
13—12—41.	**(Saturday)**—*cont.*			
	LIBYA.			
	Air combats over LIBYA.			18 planes.
	Motor transport and communications between BEMBA and DERNA.			
	Aerodrome and aircraft on the ground at DERNA.	Large fires started; Many planes damaged.		
	Shipping and planes at BENGHAZI			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	Shipping at NAVARINO, METHONI and ARGOSTOLI.		16 planes.	1 plane.
	(By Russian planes).			
	Air combats along the whole Front		4 planes	15 planes.
	FAR EAST.			
	Helping our land forces in MALAYA			
14—12—41.	**(Sunday).**			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	Air combat over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.			1 plane.
	LIBYA.			
	Air combats over TMIMI			5 planes.
	Motor transport along EL AGHEILA road.			
	Shipping and harbour at BENGHAZI			
	Aerodrome at DERNA			
	Motor vehicles and other transports along the coastal roads		5 planes.	
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Front.		7 planes.	24 planes.
	Retreating enemy troops all round the MOSCOW sector.			
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Japanese troops along MALAYA. THAILAND border			
	THAILAND.			
	Singora			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
—12—41. (Tuesday).				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
DAY :—				
	North-east coast of ENGLAND.		1 bomber.	
NIGHT :—				
	No information.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Moscow.	No damage.		
	(By Japanese planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
	BUTTERWORTH		1 plane.	
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Manila.			
	LUZON.			
10—12—41. (Wednesday).				
	(By German planes.)			
	BRITAIN.			
	No information.			
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Manila.			
	Luzon.			
	MALAYA.			
	Aerodromes in Northern MALAYA.			
11—12—41. (Thursday).				
	(By German planes)			
	BRITAIN.			
NIGHT :—				
	Coastal areas of Eastern ENGLAND.	No casualties but only slight damage.		
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	HONGKONG.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
12—12—41. (Friday).				
	(By German planes.) BRITAIN.			
NIGHT :—				
	Coastal districts in ENGLAND.	No damage.		
	RUSSIA.			
	Moscow.		5 planes.	
	(By Japanese planes). PHILIPPINES.			
	Davo (on the island of MINDANAO).			
	MALAYA.			
	Penang.	No damage.		
13—12—41. (Saturday).				
	(By German planes). BRITAIN.			
	No information.			
	(By Japanese planes). PHILIPPINES.			
	Aerodromes at CEBU and CLARK-FIELD.			
	Manila.			
	MALAYA.			
	British Aerodromes in Northern MALAYA.			
14—12—41. (Sunday.)				
	(By German planes). BRITAIN.			
	No enemy air activity.			
	(By Japanese planes). MALAYA.			
	British positions in MALAYA.			
	SINGAPORE.			
15—12—41. (Monday.)				
	(By German planes). BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Moscow.		6 planes.	
	(By Japanese planes). FAR EAST.			
	Victoria point, HONGKONG.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

EXCUSE US! The Publishers of this paper want a short holiday at Christmas time. Will subscribers and readers, therefore, please excuse us if there is no issue of the Bulletin on December 27th ?

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THE FAR EAST. If things are no better, they seem to be no worse in the Pacific than when we last wrote. The A. B. C. D. front is pulling itself together, now that the shock of treacherous surprise has worn off. With the enormous distances to be covered, and the various adjustments to strategical and industrial plans that JAPAN's irruption into the war naturally cause, it must take time for Nemesis to collect itself with sufficient momentum to be effective. At any rate there is no longer any disposition in either BRITAIN or AMERICA to underrate their new enemy, nor the length of time he can prove himself troublesome, but, looking at things big, 'troublesome' is a fair description of Japanese activities. As the *Times* points out, Hitler's GERMANY is the real menace ; JAPAN, were GERMANY to be defeated in EUROPE, could not possibly form a hostile front on her own.

To us in INDIA, and our connections in BURMA, the menace from the East naturally seem rather more than "troublesome", but no one should forget that this is a WORLD war, a fight to the death between Decency and Diabolism, and that our own incipient dangers and discomforts are mere incidentals. What we have got to do is to see things big, keep our tails up, fight Hitlerism wherever and immediately we see it, and confidently trust that united policy, plus the co-operation of every individual, will ensure final and permanent success on the *main issues*.

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SOME FIGURES. For readers who prefer statistics to moralisings, we now print the latest summaries of relative naval strengths in the Far East that we have been able to procure

1. **Immediate.—**

	American Pacific strength.	Japanese Navy.
Battleships	... 12	10 (excluding "Haruna")
Aircraft carriers	... 4	8
Seaplane carriers	... 1	...
Cruisers	... 30	40
Destroyers	... 120	140
Submarines	... 50 (at least)	80 (at least)
Auxiliaries	... numerous	?

It is *possible* (though it had been suggested that JAPAN would not make war until they should be ready in March or April next year) that *Japan has 3 or 4 vessels of the pocket-battleship type, as well.*

We are told authoritatively that the Allied Naval forces in the Pacific are at least equal to those of JAPAN (after the loss of the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*) so that BRITAIN and the Empire is probably contributing approximately half a dozen capital ships including aircraft carriers, a dozen cruisers, 20/25 destroyers and at least as many submarines; despite her enormous responsibilities elsewhere.

2. **Near Future Programmes.**

The Japanese building programme has never been disclosed, but it is almost certain that the *American programme alone is considerably outstripping it.*

Here are the known programmes of BRITAIN and AMERICA, though the delivery-dates cannot be given with any precision.

U. S. A		Delivery		Great Britain (1939)	Delivery.	
Battleships	15	?	Approxi-	9	1941	5* †
Aircraft carriers	11	?	mate	4	1941	2
Cruisers	34	?	4 years	8	1942	4
Destroyers	192	?	pro-	?		
Submarines	73	?	gramme.	?		

NOTE :—Because BRITAIN has already been at war for two years, it is impossible to ascertain how many war vessels of all kinds she is building or has built.

It should also be remembered that with the terrific speeding-up of all production, it is quite probable (compare JAPAN and the pocket-battleships(?)) that delivery dates for all classes have been considerably advanced.

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PERSONNEL and CASUALTY LISTS. GERMAN LIES.

On November 26 the German Radio naively broadcast the following:—" It will be a substantial help to the Axis if INDIA refrains from rendering any assistance in men and material to BRITAIN ". No doubt the Italians (and more recently Rommel's Huns) would acclaim this compliment to Indian soldiers, but the point is that the message is only a part of a propaganda campaign to the effect that all the hard fighting since GREECE and CRETE, and up to today, has been given to Indian and Dominion troops!

Let us deal with this virulent canard at once. The alleged sacrifice of Indian troops in heavy numbers in GREECE and CRETE is a complete falsehood. *No Indian troops whatever were employed either in Greece or Crete.*

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* Already in service.

Including *Prince of Wales.*

The total of British troops engaged in ALL operations since the start of the war, Lord Croft has recently told Parliament, is FIVE times the number of the combined Australian, New Zealand and South African forces.

In the present Libyan offensive, 70% of the troops engaged are UNITED KINGDOM troops. As for the armoured forces, who are doing the bulk of the hand-to-hand fighting, they are ENTIRELY composed of men from BRITAIN.

Turning to casualty figures, which the Germans are so adept at twisting to their own advantage on every possible occasion, it is well known that British and Empire reports are issued directly accurate figures are available, next of kin having already been informed in most cases much earlier. German casualty announcements are notoriously irregular and undetailed, *and no newspaper is allowed to print more than 25 obituaries a day!*

This being so, the answer to German calumnies about British troops shirking the hard fighting, can be found in the official figures given by Lord Croft to Parliament of October 18th last. (These figures, alas, have been considerably swelled since, but the *proportions* are the interesting part).

British casualties on all fronts, including prisoners		...	100,000
Indian	Do.	...	7,000
Australian	Do.	...	13,000
New Zealand	Do	...	6,000
South African	Do.	...	600

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VICHY'S REWARD.

Talk about selling one's birthright for a mess of pottage! See what results from the recent Pétain-Darlan-Goering discussions. Germany is to get the French naval and air-bases in Northern AFRICA, and Vichy pretends to be pleased with (*a*) a slight reduction of the costs of German occupation and (*b*) the release of 10,000 French prisoners of war in GERMANY. The 'swap' is sufficiently uneven on the face of it, but when it is realised as regards (*a*) that the Germans are already masters of almost the whole of French finance, industry and agriculture, and as regards (*b*) that the SAIGON radio announces that the 10,000 prisoners released are *all old men who fought in the last war,* (the youngsters being retained at forced labour on German war-production) the utterness of Vichy's betrayal of FRANCE is patent.

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...AND CONTINGENCIES.

There are one or two curious side issues of that precious conference. The first is that, for some reason or other, the French Fleet was not handed over. The second is that German control of French West AFRICA had to be camouflaged (AMERICA not yet being at war with FRANCE or GERMANY!). That coveted area had to

be called "a zone of Franco-Spanish defence" to be supplied with German war material and "military assistance".

Did Field Marshal Goering positively *fear* an American entry into the war, and try and keep her out by resiling on two points which were certainly on the German programme at one time? And what are the reactions in the minds of the plotters, now that JAPAN's wanton escapade has brought the mighty resources of the U. S. A. into open belligerency?

Meanwhile, as far as BRITAIN and FRANCE are concerned, CASABLANCA and ORAN and BIZERTA can hardly remain merely blockaded ports in enemy country. BRITAIN can no longer be blamed by Frenchmen if the R. A. F. and the Navy show by timely bombardment that the Moroccan and Algerian ports are admitted and dangerous Axis bases. BIZERTA, equidistant from SARDINIA and SICILY, and in a commanding position on the North AFRICAN seaboard, is specially important and can hardly be left much longer in her uneasy peace.

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POOR GOEBBELS. We have not yet heard the official German explanation of the general retreat of their 1,500 mile line before the triumphant Russian counter-attacks, but they will be rather intriguing if they are in line with the earlier explanations of the great turning of the tide. It began at ROSTOV. At first, when things began to go wrong against Timoshenko's great rally, the German news bulletins said that the Russian counter-attacks were all repulsed with astronomical losses. A bit later, the centre of ROSTOV was evacuated because "the Russians went so far as to instigate the population to fight in the rear of the German troops". *Most* reprehensible of them!—and ROSTOV was to be punished "by a fate worse than that of WARSAW". However, the next day ROSTOV had been "evacuated according to plan".

On December 2nd, the Russians were continuing their counter-attacks "utterly regardless of losses", but this time there was no mention of their being repulsed, and the unhappy topic had to be underlined by an admission that the Germans were on the defensive at LENINGRAD as well as at ROSTOV. By omission of any definite news however, the German people were made to believe that all was well at MOSCOW, which, it was emphasised, was the *really* important front. A week or two later, however, when the capital failed to capitulate according to schedule, Goebbels was forced to stress the southern front, where Timoshenko's sweep had temporarily slowed down, as the vital region, with the impending fall of SEBASTOPOL as the *piéce de résistance.*

What the little master-of-lies is going to say now, when the Russians are rolling back the fifty-three prime divisions of the Reichswehr in every sector, is quite a teasing speculation. "Our troops are now consolidating

their winter positions, and digging themselves impregnably in, in preparation for the great spring offensiye" is possibly the line. Well, the Russian Command is apparently ready to help them dig themselves in, as long as it is into graves!

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LIBYA. There still seems to be an idea about that the Allied offensive in LIBYA is something of a sideshow, or at the best a mere diversion of Axis attention such as Stalin politely asked for, with his 'second front' speech.

The actual numbers of the forces engaged have been consistently withheld but it is now plain that on both sides they are considerabiy bigger than at first appeared likely. It may be something of a disappointment to the uninitiated that authorities which held out hopes of a speedy encirclement and destruction of General Rommel's army, now expect a long running fight westward, before a decision can be forced. The fact is that very big operations are in progress, with the Axis troops—with the sea on one flank and the British on the other—fighting to reach the shelter of the Axis-controlled French North AFRICA, many hundreds of miles to the west, and the Allied forces outstripping them in a wide sweep from the south in the effort to strike north to the Gulf of Sirte, and cut them off. Once more, we must take the long-term view, and this makes it possible to say that the ultimate issue is NOT in doubt. Our reasons for this definite opinion are that whereas fresh tank supplies and infantry (mechanised) reinforcements can come, and are coming up fast, from British bases which have already been advanced a hundred miles from the Egyptian frontier, the Axis forces are dependent on one single line of supply near the coast, with all their advance bases, and their marching routes, exposed to naval bombardment and BRITAIN'S superior air forces.

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ITALIAN REACTIONS. ITALY, at any rate, is under no delusions as to the menace of the Eighth Army's operations! There are definite signs of nervousness and faltering morale throughout the country. A reliable report says that the Italian people are following events "with great tension," and that a British victory would create great difficulties for the Facist regime, especially at a time when GERMANY has her hands more than full in RUSSIA.

The Rome correspondent of a Swedish newspaper goes so far as to say that "the offensive is most dangerous, and that therefore Vichy's attitude is vital. Recently the French Armistice Commission in ROME has been having long contacts with the Italian Government...........*Libya cannot be sucessfully defended unless Tunis is more than safe.*"

......AND GERMANY'S. It would be unwise for us to bank on a revolution against Mussolini, but an intensification of Italian nervousness *would* mean the diversion of large German forces to maintain Hitler's grip on his 'ally'. Already there are accomplished facts to show how the wind blows. Police and civil officials, for instance, have been transferred from SICILY to the mainland, for fear of their behaviour in the event of a British attack on the island. Again, failure of the aircraft defences to cope with our raids, or prevent the annihilation of a convoy of Axis troops and supplies to LIBYA (6,000 enemy troops were lost), has resulted in the resignation of General Pricolo, the Under-Secretary for Air and Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force.

Napoleon once called SPAIN his "running sore". Another peninsular country ITALY may well drain away the resources of Hitler!

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GREETINGS. A happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers. Keep smiling! There is much more reason to do so than last year or the year before. With us now are the very mighty allies, each separately superior in their Cause, in man-power and natural resources, to GERMANY. Russian '*botch*' or lobster *á l'Americaine* are not likely to figure in Hitler's festal menu.

JAPAN STRIKES.

A talk broadcast by Dr. Percival Spear from Delhi on December 8, 1941.

Why has Japan so suddenly attacked Britain and America? Has she not always been trying to avoid a war with America alone, let alone with America and Britain combined? Has she not for years been trying to separate the two, and to find just those soft spots where she might injure the one without provoking the action of the other? Has she taken leave of her senses, or is there some fearful weakness in the two democracies of which Japan is secretly aware? Why has she not attacked Thailand instead, and taken the chance of America staying out? The answer, I think, is that neither of these is true. The Japanese are before all things astute, and they know very well that neither Britain nor America are to be despised. What, then, is the secret of this apparently contradictory action?

Japan has for a long time been faced with a dilemma which has grown ever sharper as the weeks flew by. Either she must bow to the steadily stiffening A B C D front, and so acknowledge the failure of her whole aggressive policy of the last ten years, or else she must try to break that front before it

became unbreakable. The dilemma was so formidable that Japan for over a year has been trying to find a way out. Her method has been to drive a wedge between the democratic powers, to probe for weak spots, and to advance wherever the resistance weakened. It took Japan some distance at first, but it has proved steadily less successful, until she has recently found herself confronted with an encircling wall of rising resistance.

Japan's whole policy is traditionally based on Bushido, the Imperial way, whose modern euphemism is Co-Prosperity. Bushido means the divine mission of Japan to rule as much of the world as she can lay her hands on, or circumstances will permit. Co-Prosperity means, according to the usual modern Japanese usage, co-slavery for all Japan's neighbours. The co-prosperity sphere in South East Asia simply means that Japan thinks she has a chance of ruling and exploiting that part of the world, while other Great Powers are busy elsewhere.

JACKAL OF JACKALS.

Japan's method has always been to rely on finesse rather than strength, and to advance while others' backs are turned. That is why she is rightly called the Far Eastern Italy. She is not Germany's jackal but the universal jackal, the jackal of jackals. Here is her record. In 1894 she first attacked China, took Formosa "and protected" Korea which she annexed in 1910. In 1904 she opposed Russia because Russia wanted what she herself wanted, as later history proved. In the first World War she took Tsingtao as Britain's ally, and then fell upon China with the infamous Twenty One demands. China was to be Japan's Czechoslovakia. At the Washington Conference she was made to disgorge some of her ill-gotten gains, for which she has never forgiven Britain or America. She used the great depression of 1931 to seize Manchukuo, and the rise of Germany to attack China in 1937. Her policy since the war broke out has been all of a piece with this rake's progress. She seized the opportunity presented by the fall of France to take bases in northern Indo-China. She could have gone even further then, and has ever since reproached herself with the loss of a great opportunity. From that moment, however, she has met with a steadily stiffening resistance. Britain and America reacted vigorously to threats in February of this year. The Dutch East Indies showed the door to Japanese delegates blandly suggesting an economic stranglehold of the East Indies. The Thais took Japanese help to recover lost lands in Indo-China, but declined firmly Japanese assistance in running their own country. Singapore grew steadily stronger, the Philippines prepared themselves. The Russian war seemed to provide another opportunity, and on the strength of it Japan went into southern Indo-China. The economic blizzard which followed showed Japan that she had reached the limit of the small boy's method of snatching

an apple and then running out of reach of the irate shopkeeper. Ever since then Japan has in consequence been trying to divide Britain and America, first by the Konoye conversations and then by the Kurusu mission. The latest Japanese proposal for a standstill agreement of three months was evidently a final effort, which Mr. Churchill's Guildhall speech must already have warned them was a forlorn hope.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

A number of questions suggest themselves at this point. Why have the Japanese gone south? They have gone south because necessity compels. Since the A B C D embargo, they are faced with a famine in those two essentials, rubber and oil, as well as a shortage in rice. Japan must break the ring or submit to slow economic strangulation. Neither Indo-China nor Thailand, and still less Siberia, would satisfy their needs, and so they are driven relentlessly towards the Dutch East Indies and Malaya.

This consideration answers the next question which arises—why have not the Japanese attacked Siberia, and so helped Germany in her Russian war? The answer is, I believe, that while the Japanese are committed in general to the German side of the world war, they are determined above all things not to act merely as a Nazi stooge. This position so closely resembles Italy's in 1940 that they are morbidly anxious to appear to act differently. The Japanese were not consulted about the attack on Russia, which, with the ink of their Russian agreement hardly dry, made Japan, in relation to Germany, look much too like Italy for Japanese taste. Prince Konoye has dressed up as Hitler, but not even Mr. Matsuoka has felt tempted to masquerade as Mussolini. Next, the Russian campaign did not go as the Germans said it would, and indeed, still fails to do so. After four months waiting, the Japanese expected on the strength of Hitler's speech that Moscow would fall in October, and changed their government to suit, but once again they were disappointed. The root reason remains that to attack Siberia would be merely to help Germany, while to move south is for Japan to help herself.

Why, again, has Japan not gone into Thailand alone, hoping that after all America would stand aloof? Because, I think, she believes that if America did not stand aloof the consequences would be disastrous. Japan would be tied up in Thailand, and America at leisure would be able to cut her rear and institute a close and fatal blockade.

STRATEGY OF DIVISION.

Convinced that America and Britain would stand together, and compelled to attempt to break the economic ring growing ever tighter, Japan therefore decided to attack first. Her strategy is, I suggest, the only possible one in the circumstances, to divide her two chief opponents, and her tactics the only possible ones also, to cripple them temporarily by surprise while she seizes

vital points in the huge battle area. Taking the strategy first, an outline of the Japanese plan can already be seen. The main centre of American strength is at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. Her great outpost is the Philippines, protected by the fortress of Manila. The Philippines are 5,600 miles from Hawaii, with which they are linked by the islands of Guam and Wake. The centre of British strength is Singapore, with Hongkong an outpost 1,440 miles away by sea. The Japanese action against America is designed first to cripple the American fleet temporarily at Hawaii, then to snap the sea and air link with the Philippines by seizing Guam and Wake. Before America has recovered the Philippines might be taken, and then the American fleet would be left at Hawaii, 3,380 miles from Japan, with none of the stepping stones necessary for strong action in Japanese waters, or for sending help to Britain and the Dutch in the Far East. The simultaneous attacks on Malaya and Thailand are parts of this plan, they are attempts to seize vital spots before American strength can be mobilised or made effective. The descent on northern Malaya has been synchronised with the attack on Thailand in order first to prevent Britain from coming to the help of Thailand. Next, it is hoped to push the British back from the Thai border on the Kra peninsula, and so to isolate Thailand and deal with her at leisure.

The tactic of surprise is a typical Japanese one. They used it against the Russians in 1904, the Chinese in 1931 and again in 1937. In itself it is a sign of weakness, for surprise is only used if it is thought that the mobilised forces of one's opponent may prove too strong. At the same time, it would be most unwise to underestimate Japanese strength, as the Russians did in 1904. They have a fine navy, a large and experienced army, an air force of unknown strength.

DESPERATE MEN.

Since surprise is the method chosen, events may be expected to move quickly, in the next few days. Should the surprise fail, the Japanese will be in an unenviable position, for the economic factor and America's latent strength would then begin to assert themselves. But again, it would be very unwise to expect the Japanese to crack up if their first surprise fails. The men in charge of Japan's destinies are desperate men, and having once made the supreme gamble they must play to the end until they or the bank breaks. We know that the A B C D bank has far greater resources than the Japanese gambler, and we can therefore be confident that it will not be the bank which will eventually go into liquidation. But meanwhile we must be prepared for surprises and sharp encounters.

I have said nothing about the moral side of Japan's action, for the very good reason that there is no moral side. A more calculated, naked and hypocritical act of aggression cannot be imagined. But let Mr. Cordell Hull, the

venerable American Secretary of State, the Nestor of world diplomacy, and one of the most moderate minded as well as respected figures in world politics to-day, describe it in his own words. This is how he described Japan's last note to America. It was, he said, "Crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions on a scale so huge that I have never imagined until to-day that any government was capable of uttering them."

HOW JAPAN HAS HELPED THE ALLIES.

Ten weeks ago, a very notable and influential British journalist came back from America, and recorded his impressions of that country's attitude towards open belligerency.

America—thanks to Japanese machinations—is now 'in the war' till the bitter end, and Mr. H. N. Brailsford, who wrote the following article in the ***New Statesman and Nation*** *in September, will be only one of many who welcome the Japanese blunder.* [*Ed.*].

In brilliant sunshine over a calm sea watchers on the Irish coast have enjoyed one of the most splendid spectacles in our naval annals. A convoy, whose front line covered four miles of the calm seas, swept by in majestic order; round it the camouflaged destroyers circled, and an occasional plane crossed its dressed ranks. How many scores of ships were there—freighters, whalers and tankers—in its dozen parallel columns? That is, for no reason I can fathom, a military secret, but one may safely say that it was even larger than the magnificent convoy which Mr. Churchill described in his last broadcast. The voyage from New York occupied some weeks, and not one incident of peril broke its monotony. In our grey hulls we carried several millions of tons of the most varied cargoes, which represented the labours, the generosity and the sympathy of the American people. On our deck there were planes, and our hold was packed with food. Even the destroyer that led us was their gift. So secure were we, that our captain did not urge us to sleep in our clothes until we reached the longitude of Iceland, for up to that invisible line the patrols of the United States Navy watched over our safety.

No traveller who has passed through such an experience will minimise the contribution which America is making to ensure, first our survival and then our victory in this war. Without it we should have been overwhelmed in our isolation. Up to the occupation of Iceland, which Americans hailed with enthusiasm, it had developed steadily, by gradual stages, **and most of us had argued that we might wait in confident patience; for it could be only a matter of months until America entered "the shooting war" without reservations.**

My stay in the States has convinced me that this expectation is too sanguine. There was no mistaking the significance of the single vote by which the amending Act extending the period of compulsory military service scraped through the House of Representatives. This check to the President's leadership happened while I was at sea, but I had seen enough before I sailed to feel deeply anxious about the fate of this measure. The first step was the publication of an able memorandum, addressed to Congress by General Marshall, as head of the Army, who later gave evidence in person before its Committee. He asked boldly for two changes; firstly, the removal of the restriction that limits the service of conscripted men to the Western Hemisphere; secondly, the extension of their period of service from one year to the duration of the "emergency." These proposals were obviously unpopular. It was felt that the Administration was breaking faith with the men who had been drafted for one year's training only. Some units broke discipline by sending round-robins of protest to Senator Wheeler. Others scattered printed protests on the roads as they marched. Sensitive to popular feeling, the President at once dropped the bolder of General Marshall's two demands. What Americans dread above all else is a second campaign in the mud of Flanders. Nor did he venture to prolong the period of service indefinitely: after hard bargaining in the lobbies the extension was limited to eighteen months. This satisfied the Senate, who passed the amending Bill by a two to one vote, but the House, rather nearer to mass opinion, was almost equally divided.

This warning does not stand alone. **The broad fact is that while Americans must listen daily to eloquent and alarming official demonstrations that their safety and their liberties are in the gravest danger, they do not as yet effectively believe it.** Their intellect may assent, but as yet there is no instinctive response: they cannot feel alarm, and **will not yet face the sacrifices which only peril, sharply realised, could impose.** That is obvious in the daily round of their economic life. Mr. Leon Henderson's attempt to curtail the use of petrol for pleasure, by forbidding its sale on Sunday, actually resulted in an increase of consumption. He is still struggling, as yet with only partial success, to cut the output of motor-cars for civilian use by 50 per cent., and this in spite of the fact that it had risen during the past year by 35 per cent. There is as yet no sign of the mass emotion which fuses private interests in the flame of a nation's resolve.

The massive reluctance of the American people to enter "the shooting war" was powerfully reinforced by the attack on Russia. When the nearly incredible news came over the cables, I watched that nation lying back in its easy chair with an audible sigh of relief. Ex-President Hoover drew the moral on the very first day, when he declared that such case as there was for American

belligerency had now been destroyed. The contest showed clearly what he meant: Whatever Russia lacks, she has at any rate man-power in countless millions: Why, then, should America send her boys overseas? I talked over this question with every American I met, from taximen to senators. Their view was unanimous, and the intellectuals hardly differed from the workers in the simplicity of their response. It was obvious that they had long been wrestling with the uncomfortable promptings of duty. They were half-persuaded that they ought to "come in," but now, in the nick of time, on the edge of the abyss, Hitler by this mad act of *hybris* had saved them; Russians would do all the necessary fighting on land; it would suffice that Americans should make the munitions. I heard this said even by experts who predicted that the Russians would collapse in a few weeks. I did, indeed, meet Americans who took the opposite view, and advocated the participation of their country in an expeditionary force operating in Western Europe, but most of them were soldiers. The prevalent view among civilian experts, even among those most devoted to our common cause, was that Hitler can be destroyed by aerial bombardment alone, if we tighten the blockade and make an adroit use of political propaganda. Among the men who argued this out at length with me were several who hold positions which enable them to control the opinions of the more thoughtful strata of this democracy.

My reading of the public pulse is that America as a whole would acquiesce in any naval or aerial action which events rendered necessary. It was ready to endorse the escort of convoys. It might, I think, agree, albeit with suspicion and reluctance, to the despatch of ships and marines to Dakar, if Pétain and Hitler between them provoked it sufficiently. **But I can imagine no set of circumstances, even in the distant future, that would extort its consent to a European expedition.** Before that happens its mood must radically change. Is the President trying to change it? I cannot answer that question with confidence, but I will venture to say this: the nearer I got to the White House during my stay in Washington, the less confident were those I met. The President has given the most explicit public pledges, which he renewed privately to Senators to ease the passage of the Lend-Lease Act. It is, then, possible and even **probable that his own belief is that America can see us through by forms of assistance that fall "short of war."**

Here, then, is the problem that we have to face in our dealings with America. Can we hope to win this war, save by an expedition in the West? And if that be necessary, as it surely is, are we strong enough or can we soon be strong enough, to undertake it without American participation? At present our propagandists, official and unofficial, are using all their resources to persuade Americans that we do not need men. There would not be standing room for them on our island, as Sir Gerald Campbell put it. **This may be true enough as regards the immediate present and the near future, but the unwary**

American reader takes it to mean that we never shall need his man-power, and I believe the intention is to convey this meaning. The consequences are obvious. If the day should come, let us say, next spring, when the chances of victory depend on the arrival of a given number of American mechanised Divisions, we shall discover first of all that no such Divisions exist, and, secondly, that if they did, nothing would induce the American people to send them. **The temperature of American life is still too moderate to permit of the industrial effort which might in the interval equip those Divisions, or of the political change of front that would allow of their despatch.**

THE CONSTANT LOVER.

A German peace would strengthen and perpetuate Russian militarism and would lead to a new attempt of the Germans to dominate the world. It is absolutely necessary that the Austro-German group be forced into unconditional surrender. This war must continue until the day the Germans will be compelled to beg for peace on their knees. Germany must be crushed so completely that it can do no damage to the world for fifty years to come.

—(*Benito Mussolini in Popolo d'Italia, April 1, 1915*).

HOW THE NAVY PREYS UPON ENEMY'S LIFE-LINE TO NORTH AFRICA.
SUPERIOR TRAINING IN NIGHT FIGHTING.
TIMELY AND EFFICIENT CO-OPERATION WITH R. A. F.

by

" Taffrail ".

Recent smashing attacks by the British Navy on convoys reinforcing and supplying the Axis armies in Libya, must be causing acute concern to the enemy in view of our new offensive. **Once upon a time the Axis Powers dreamed** of the occupation of Egypt, and the withdrawal of our fleet from Alexandria and the Eastern Mediterranean, and of placing in a position of grave danger all our armies in the Middle East. **To-day the dream has become a nightmare.**

Libya itself provides little. Troops must be fed and reinforced as casualties occur. Guns require ammunition. Machanised transport and armoured fighting vehicles require fuel. So do aeroplanes. **Aircraft alone, even supposing they are not interfered with, cannot ever hope to supply the army with all its needs, over the sea route between Italy and Sicily to Tripoli and Benghazi.**

Submarines and aircraft have been preying upon the enemy's line of communication for many months. At the beginning of November Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham said that about 50 per cent of all convoys supplying the Axis army in Libya were being sunk or damaged. It was estimated in other responsible quarters that in the three months ending October 31, not less than 86 vessels had been sunk, and 61 more damaged.

These losses are serious enough, but on November 9 and 11 came two further Admiralty announcements. The first said that an enemy convoy of ten supply ships had been completely destroyed by a force of two British cruisers and two destroyers under Captain Agnew. Three Italian destroyers were sunk at the same time, and two others severely damaged. Two heavy Italian cruisers that were in the vicinity as a covering force had no influence upon the engagement.

On November 11 an Admiralty communiqué announced that British submarines had sunk four troop ships or supply ships and two sailing vessels, and damaged two armed merchant cruisers acting as escorts.

Italian warships and merchantmen, partly manned as they are said to be by Nazi seamen, to stiffen up the waning morale of the Italians, are suffering the effects of British naval predominance in the Mediterranean. It is not for nothing that Italian surface ships usually seek safety in hurried departure whenever British naval forces appear. It is not for nothing that a British force of two small cruisers and a couple of destroyers can venture by night into waters within about 200 miles of enemy naval bases and aerodromes, and there destroy a complete enemy convoy, and most of its destroyer escort, without loss to itself.

A night engagement is always a chancy business. So many untoward incidents may happen during a high-speed close-range scrimmage in the dark, Captain Agnew's action not only showed brilliaut leadership and organisation, but also the far superior training in night fighting of the ships and men of the Royal Navy.

The battle also illustrates the timely and efficient co-operation that exists between the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, for it was a Maryland aircraft of the R. A. F. that first spotted the enemy convoy at sea during daylight and reported its presence. **Italy is learning the true meaning of sea power, and the Mediterranean can never be an Italian lake.** She has already lost Abyssinia, Eritrea and Itatian Somaliland, while the Axis army in Libya with its supply line by sea subject to constant interruptions, is in process of partial strangulation.

BRITAIN'S "COMMANDOES" IN ACTION.

SHOCK TROOPS WHO DARE ALL.

FORCE WHICH CAN ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF HIGHER COMMAND.

HOW THE ENEMY WAS FOOLED AT BARDIA?

*Mr. Evelyn Waugh gives in the **Evening Standard** the first account of Britain's new and hitherto secret "Commando" force and its being in action.*

We were an odd force who had been in existence for nearly a year. We were formed in secret, and for a long time remained secret. In one way or another, we attracted a good deal of curiosity.

Now, after a summer's fighting in the Middle East, it is at last possible to tell something of our story. It is one which has a significance quite beyond the gossip we aroused and beyond our actual achievement in the field, for the force constituted a series of experiments in raising, training and using a new kind of military unit, which may well have a lasting effect on the British army.

RAISED IN JULY, 1940.

The force was raised in July, 1940. Remember the conditions in England in the days between Dunkirk and the first air battle in Britain. Half-trained battalions suddenly found themselves as first-line troops; the bulk of the regular army was reorganising and rearming; the Home Guard was untrained and short of equipment; invasion was expected daily; in Poland, Norway and France we had seen that one of the chief dangers to the defending force was the breakdown in communications between large units.

The need of the moment was for small bodies of picked fighting troops, who, in the event of the higher commands being paralysed would be able to carry on independently, and without the machinery of full-scale operations, mount sharp little counter-attacks on their own, breaking the enemy's lines of communication both to England and on the Continent.

PICKED MEN.

That was the original idea of the formation of the "Commandoes". They were literally picked men. First the commanders were chosen; they were all young men of an age when normally they would have had companies and squadrons. They were now given the task of raising their own forces.

My own commander, who eventually came to command a force in the Middle East, was a commander par excellence. He had succeeded in combining life in a fashionable cavalry regiment with a brilliant career at a staff college, and such feats of toughness as sailing round the world as an ordinary seaman in Finnish windjammers.

MORE VOLUNTEERS THAN NEEDED.

An order was circulated to the army asking for volunteers from among officers and men for hazardous tasks. Supply greatly exceeded demand. The commanders picked their officers, and left them to pick their men. Our troop leaders visited the regimental depóts, saw each man individually, looked up his records and talked to his former officers. The qualities they were seeking were simply the qualities of any good soldier—physical strength, endurance, fighting spirit, knowledge of his weapons and enterprise. There was nothing peculiar about our men. They were simply the best types of the regiments from which they came. Officers were mostly from the Household Brigade. They got a reputation of being exclusively recruited from the very rich and the very gay, but there was a fair proporation of industrious professional soldiers to preserve a balance.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

I remember my impression on first joining. The Commando was at the time living in Scotland, and the officers' mess was in a hotel. I had come from the austerity and formality of the Royal Marines. In a Marine mess it is thought disgraceful to be down before six in the evening; those who have nothing to do must pretend that they have.

I found a young troop leader wearing a military tunic and corduroy trousers. He was reclining with a white Pekinese on his lap and a large cigar in his mouth. Then I noticed above the pocket of his coat the ribbon of an M. C., and later when I saw him with his troop I realised that his men follow him anywhere.

The names, among our officers, of Jellicoe, Keyes, Beatty and Churchill showed how the sons of the last war leaders saw in the Commandoes a chance of reliving their fathers' achievements. There was something of the spirit of which one reads in the letters and poetry of 1914. We had a more elastic system of discipline than is possible in an ordinary battalion. There was none of that daily succession of petty charges and petty punishments. If a man was a nuisance, he was simply sent back to his regiment.

ONLY A SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.

All were volunteers, and all proud of the additional rigours of their training. So as to cut down the administration to the minimum, and to have no one with us who was not a fighting man, we were simply paid a subsistence allowance, and when ashore left to find our own food and lodging. Troops were taught to live on the country and hunt for their food. We formed a pool, from which detachments could be drawn when there was a special job for us. We had parties to Tobruk and to Syria, and another was detached for special reconnaissance with the Navy. We had our full share of medals and casualties. The following is the account of one small operation, a bloodless one, which was neatly

planned and executed, typical of the special tasks for which we were trained.

RAID ON BARDIA.

Bardia lies behind the enemy lines between Sollum and Tobruk. It is a harbour and small town, and the supply road to Capuzzo and forward enemy troops runs through it. The G. H. Q. wanted a raid there for several reasons. They wanted information—were the enemy garrisoning the town or encamped some distance away? (That is, was it worth while shelling and bombing it any more? Were there coast defence guns? Was it being used, as was reported, as a transport depót?)

More important than information was the need to draw off mechanised troops. The enemy must be made to "look over his shoulder" and withdraw men from the front to guard his lines of communication. If possible, he must be made to think that a full-scale attack was being attempted in his rear, and to rush large mechanised forces to Bardia that were needed elsewhere. As a minor consideration, any damage we could do to roads, bridges or stores would be welcome.

A SINGLE COMMANDO CHOSEN.

A single Commando was chosen for the job. We expected to find at least two battalions in possession. Bardia is on a small promontory where cliffs rise up sharply from the seashore. There were four possible landing places where wadis (water courses usually dry) broke the face of the rocks and had left a little half circle of sand.

The party was to land on each of these beaches simultaneously. Each troop had its own task. From the moment they left the ship until the moment they returned to it, they would receive no further orders. Each had his objective: one to hold the road against the arrival of reinforcements; one to cover each beach; one to blow up the bridge on the road; one to destroy stores, and so on. Each troop had to tackle whatever opposition they found in their way.

These orders were kept entirely secret until we were at sea. A day's sailing was a blessing; it gave time to issue maps, photographs and written orders, for troop leaders to master them and explain them fully to their men, so that every one of them was capable of carrying on alone if needs be. The only unhappy people on board were the half a dozen or so who had been detailed to remain on board as a rear party. During the day each of them came to me, and besought to be allowed to come ashore. I managed to fit most of them in under one excuse or another.

There was a suggestion that we should get some sleep between dusk and manning the boats, but everyone was too cheerful. They were sharpening bayonets, disposing grenades about their persons or blacking gum-shoes.

LANDING IN THE DARK.

It is a ticklish business landing in the dark on a strange beach in any kind of surf. It is seldom really dark in the Mediterranean, but tonight the stars were overcast. Standing to on the deck, we could barely discern the guard rail or distinguish between sea and sky. We were in position at our boat statious half an hour before the ship reached her destination; then we heard the engines stop and silently manned the boats. One sits in these boats in three lines astride on low seats. The bows have a ramp which lets down, so that all three lines can pull out together. It takes less than half a minute for 30 men to clear a boat.

The boats were lowered, formed a line abreast, and made for the shore. Our heads were all under the level of the armoured sides; it was impossible to move a muscle. The man on my left was sick; the only movement he was capable of was to turn his head slightly towards me. Most of the men fell asleep. Excitement had died down, and those of us who were awake thought about their particular minor discomforts, and looked forward to the beach for a chance to stretch.

"STAND BY TO LAND".

At last the whisper passed back from the bows: "Stand by to land", and we felt the bottom scrape on the shingle. The ramp went down. We pressed forward into knee-deep water and up a steep ledge of the beach. Two men near me fell flat and got up dripping and cursing very quietly. There was a minute on the beach while the section leaders collected their men behind them; then, without a word spoken, they were off to their objectives.

We could just discern the line of the escarpment ahead, slightly more solid than the starless sky. I had been busy with watch and note-book checking the time of the boats beaching and disembarking. It had all gone like a training exercise. The boats hit the beach in line, emptied and reversed their engines. They are out of sight in one direction and the men are out of sight in another in a few seconds. Then officers of the H. Q. follow them, and the beach is empty.

A BEAST OF A DITCH.

There is a check in front, and I go forward to find what it is. I find three parallel lines of men crossing a deep water-logged anti-tank ditch that had not been visible in any air photograghs. It seems an odd place for a ditch, but there it is and loses us 20 minutes, for in the dark we cannot let the men scatter as we would in daylight. They must keep within touch of one another, and the first must wait for the last to come up with them.

It was a beast of a ditch. Then the climb started. We had studied it in a spectroscope, but comforted ourselves with the reflection that everything looks steeper than it is through this device. Our wadi was precipitous and composed of loose stones. All through our training we had practised moving at night, and on

roads or solid rock we were almost noiseless, as we wore rubber or crepe-soled boots. Now, however, the din of men scrambling up in the darkness seemed deafening; stones came thudding down from above, gathering little avalanches as they came.

BULLETS SING OUT OVERHEAD.

Suddenly there were three rapid shots, and bullets sang out overhead. The line paused for half a second, and was then pushing on. In the lull I thought: "That has finished it. They have let us get ashore, and now they have caught us very nicely on the cliff face. We were not as clever as we thought at keeping the secret."

Bnt when we pushed forward again, there were no more shots, and I thought: "It was a single sentry. He has gone back to raise the garrison. But we'll be on the top by the time they are in position."

In spite of our hard training, the climb took it out of us. We were rather behind in our timings. It was uow a quarter to one, and at a quarter past two we should begin our withdrawal to the boats. It did not allow much time for delay, but the forward parties were already well on their way into the town. No sound came from them, and I suddenly realised that the place was empty. The H. Q. formed an observation post near a great assembly of transport units which had been reported there; in front, another of the troops was entering a former Italian barrack. Further on again, other troops which had landed lower down were pushing up into the further side of the town.

GETTING ON WITH THEIR JOB.

There was complete silence for about half an hour. We knew that the various parties were getting to their objectives and setting their demolition charges.

Suddenly from all sides detonations began. We were able to plot them pretty exactly. "That's the coast defence battery on the hill"; "that's the road bridge".

And at the same time a splendid red fire mounted and curled half a mile away in the old barracks. They had found a store of new motor tyres—a precious thing in a desert—and it blazed gloriously. And still there was no sign of the enemy.

At last a patrol of two motor cycles driving all out without lights came roaring down the main road. Everyone near had a shot at them with tommy guns and grenades, but they got through somehow. They were not easy targets. It was very lucky really that they did escape, for it was through them that the enemy learned, as we particularly wanted them to learn, that a landing was taking place. Had they merely seen the blaze and heard the demolition charges from a distance, they might have taken us for an air raid. As it was, the impression which these men carried was of a town strongly in enemy hands, and it was due to their report that our major success was achieved. They did exactly what the higher command

wanted, and sent a strong detachment of tanks.

SOMETHING ATTEMPTED SOMETHING DONE.

Our work finished, we returned to our beaches. The way down was lighted by the burning stores, where the flames now mounted high up to the sky.

The boats had been lying off, and now came into the beaches. The wind had risen; there was a heavy surf pounding the shingle and washing over the ledges of sand; the naval party had a job to keep them. Heading to the shore, one boat got her propeller screw fouled in the kedge-anchor, breached to, and was thrown up on to a shelf of sand. They destroyed her with a grenade on the petrol tank, and the little bay was lit up by this second fire, so that we should have made an easy target for the enemy on the heights above.

But no enemy came. The sea was a great deal heavier than was healthy for these flat-bottomed, rather awkward craft, and all had difficulties of one kind or another in getting away. The ramp of my boat got jammed, and for half an hour we floated in the bay while all other boats disappeared back to the ship while two men cut through the steel cable with a bayonet. Eventually we got her going, and came alongside of the ship just as they had despaired of us. One boat failed to find the rendezvous, but sailed safely into Tobruk the next day.

As we sailed, we saw parachute flares dropping over the town from enemy reconnaissance airplanes. The time-table had worked out right to the minute, with nothing to spare. The only misadventure which marred the success of the night was the loss of a boat-load of men who from the top of the escarpment took themselves on to a beach where there was no boat waiting. But we had made all our objectives.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

A Commentary on Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

For the period Nov. 29—Dec. 6, 1941.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

"Concerning the Libyan campaign", remarked 'Lord Haw-Haw' in a talk from Germany on December 1, "I prefer to abstain from detailed comment".

Two days later Walt Mittler began to speak on "The Position To-day". Immediately all six German stations went off the air and remained silent for half an hour.

AN OLD LIE RE-DRESSED

"The Indians are greatly worried at their heavy losses in North Africa. They have found out that the Indian soldiers are stationed in the most dangerous fronts. Among the prisoners taken during the fighting in N. Africa were numerous Indians. As soon as the front line was reached the Indians were flung into battle to stem the advance of the German and Italian tank-formations. The losses of Indian troops were extremely heavy".—(*German News in Hindustani, November 30.*)

"As on the other battlefields the British are causing troops of the different colonies to bear the brunt of the fighting in North Africa. In Greece.........Indians fought for the British. Time and again......Indians have shed their blood for the British".—(*German News in English, December 5.*)

The compliment that the Germans have unwittingly paid the Indian troops will no doubt be accepted. If the Indians were in the forefront of the battle, they have carried it a long way. Their bravery in comradeship with an "English County Regiment" whose feats are deathless, has been praised by the American observer Quentin Reynolds.

But the facts against which Axis propaganda dashes in vain are these:

Of the troops participating in the great Libyan offensive, 70 per cent. are from England, as revealed by the Minister of Information, Mr. Brendan Bracken, on November 29. The whole of the armoured striking force which bears the brunt of the fierce tank battle is of United Kingdom composition.

The sad but noble story of Empire casualties was told in the comprehensive official figures quoted by Lord Croft on October 18. British casualties on all fronts up to that date were 100,000 in round figures. Indian casualties were 7,000. Dominion casualties were 20,000. Casualties must be heavy in the grim struggle now raging in Libya against Germany's picked troops and tanks. But the burden is shared without question by all the forces of Britain and the Empire.

As for Greece, the answer to that German lie is that no Indian troops were engaged there.

FACTION AND FACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"The number of pilgrims to Mecca has greatly diminished this year".—(*German News in German, 2nd December 1941.*)

"The number of pilgrims to Mecca has greatly diminished this year".—(*Italian News in Hindustani, 2nd December 1941.*)

From India alone, the Government of India in this year providing accommodation for 11,500 Haj pilgrims—a figure exceeding that of the last two years put together. The first three pilgrim ships have already arrived safely in Hedjaz. The number of pilgrims registering from Palestine is already more than twice as high as last year. The Germans have wisely confined their lies for local consumption, while the Italians have tactlessly blurted them out in Hindustani.

"British authorities have seized large quantities of wheat in Iran.

Far from seizing wheat in Iran, wheat from Russia and the British Empire has

This has caused unrest in the country. Wherever the British go famine follows their footsteps".—(*German News in English, 3rd December 1941.*)

gone into it. The estimated total is between 30 to 40 thousand tons. The Shah has recently given a munificent gift of £ 125,000 for distribution amongst the poor. Wheat production is being stepped up by a skilful policy of price priming.

"It will not be out of place to mention", said the Prime Minister of Iran on December 6, "that when the former Cabinet took over the Government about 2 months ago, warehouses in Teheran had insufficient wheat, but now I have the pleasure to mention that the wheat supply has been ensured".

BRAZILIAN NUTS

"There never existed the so-called German danger in Brazil." (*German News in English, December 2, 1941.*)

"We shall create a new Germany in Brazil". (*'Hitler Speaks', pp. 69—71.*)

ROSTOV REVERBERATIONS.

In Rostov Goebbels has dug his propaganda grave. He played up a Rostov victory, with premature and exaggerated glee. He has tried to cover the retreat of the Panzers with ill-tempered screams.

On November 22 the Germans claimed to have taken Rostov. Two days earlier they informed the Americans that "*Further Soviet resistance is senseless, and would not be conducted by any command with any feeling of responsibility*".

In the last week of November the German home radio said "*Rostov is in German hands, and constitutes a barrier between the Caucasus and the rest of the Soviet Union*". In fact on November 19 the German home radio boasted about Rostov, and added: "*The setting up of a civil administration in occupied Russia proves the untruth of one of the most frequent propaganda lies of our enemies, that fighting with partisans occurs in these places*".

The military retreat from Rostov has now sent Dr. Goebbels into a further retreat from reason. The official German communiqué of December 1 was read on the radio as follows: "*According to orders, so that necessary retaliatory measures may now be ruthlessly carried out against a population which contrary to international law participated in fighting in the rear of German troops,* the Army has withdrawn from Rostov."

The world was warned the same day:—"*The Bolsheviks will now claim that they have captured Rostov. But there can be no question of this*".

Reprisals are to be taken against the citizens according to "*international law*" by leaving the town. The citizens were attacking the "*rear*" of the German army which was already inside the town, and had set up a "*civil administration*". The Russians are "*senseless enough to make Rostov an outpost of the British front in the Near East*". (*German news in English, December 3, 1941.*) The jigsaw puzzle of lies had many gaps this time.

GOEBBELS HOPES IN 1940.

England.

"The British Navy is invisible in the North Sea, powerless in the Mediterranean, absent in the Far East and repulsed in the Atlantic". (*German Broadcast, December 2, 1940.*)

"By March or April 1941 Britain will no longer have any ships to bring in food supplies". (*German Home Radio, November 30, 1940*).

"The hopes placed by Britain on assistance from the United States are comparable to the attempts of a drowning man to clutch at a straw." (*Zeesen Broadcast to America, November 30, 1940.*)

"England's fate is being sealed with mathematical precision". (*German News from Czechoslovakia, November 30, 1940.*)

"1940 is the greatest year in German history. **Its end spells victory.**" (*Zeesen Broadcast, December 6, 1940.*)

GOEBBELS GROPES IN 1941.

Germany.

"All purchase, sale or barter of wool is prohibited. Entire output is being used for Army purposes." (*German Home Broadcast, November, 1941.*)

"Europe must realise essential principles of *ersatz*. It must live by its own production." (*German Broadcast to Belgium, November 28, 1941.*)

"The hostilities in Russia were not started only to suppress the danger which threatened civilisation, they were to secure essential raw materials to European countries." (*German Broadcast to Belgium, October 27, 1941.*)

"Lorries may now only be manufactured if adapted to driving on wood gas." (*German Home Broadcast, November 12, 1941.*)

"..........increase in coal production in Slovak mines has only been 3½ per cent in the past year." (*German Broadcast to the Netherlands, November 28, 1941.*)

"Africa can provide raw materials and food...........that Europe needs." (*Nazi controlled Paris Radio, July 1941*).

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

REVISED PROGRAMME FOR LECTURE LXXV, AND CHRISTMAS SPECIAL PROGRAMME.

1941—

December ...	20, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
		Konnayur ...	6.00 p. m.
	21, Sunday ...	Rayavaram ...	10.00 a. m.
		Ponnamaravathi ...	6.00 p. m.
	22, Monday ...	Panayappatti ...	10.00 a. m.
		Vendampatti ...	6.00 p. m.
	23, Tuesday ...	Konapet ...	6.00 p. m.
	26, Friday ...	Kulipirai ...	6.00 p. m.
	27, Saturday ...	Virachilai ...	6.00 p. m.
	28, Sunday ...	Mela Vegupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
	29, Monday ...	Nachandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
	30, Tuesday ...	Arimalam ...	6.00 p. m.
	31, Wednesday.	Ramachandrapuram ...	6.00 p. m.

1942—

January ...	2, Friday ...	Rangiam ...	6.00 p. m.

TOWN LECTURES.

1941—

December ...	23, Tuesday ...	Public square in front of Santhanathaswami Temple.	5.00 p. m.
	26, Friday ...	Municipal Office ...	5.00 p. m.
	27, Saturday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	5.00 p. m.
	28, Sunday ...	Tiruvappur ...	5.00 p. m.
	29, Monday ...	Cheri ...	5.00 p. m.

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